

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 05918 181725Z
ACTION ARA-14

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UNCLAS PANAMA 5918

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION PRIORITY USINFO WASHDC INFO SECSTATE
WASHDC AUG 18 FM USIS/PANAMA REPEATED YOUR INFO

QUOTE
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SECSTATE FOR ARA/PAF & PAN

EO 11652: N/A

MEDIA REACTION

1. PANAMA CITY. TREATY STORIES DOMINATE AUGUST 18 FRONT PAGES.
LA ESTRELLA CARRIES DOUBLE SPREAD HEAD, "ANDREW YOUNG AFFIRM:
U.S. WORLD POSITION DEPENDS ON TREATY," OVER AP RICHARD PYLE
BYLINER ON BUNKER-LINOWITZ APPEARANCE BEFORE MERCHANT MARINE
COMMITTEE. YOUNG STORY APPEARS ON PAGE 24, LA ESTRELLA ALSO
CARRIES 2-COLUMN HEAD ON PANAMA VISIT BY SENATORS THURMOND, HELMS
AND HATCH, WITH STORY AND COMPLETE SCHEDULE ON INTERIOR PAGE.

2. STAR & HERALD MATCHED HEADLINE WITH AP STORY ON MERCHANT
MARINE COMMITTEE HEARING WITH: "REFUSE DISCUSSION OF TERMS
NOW: BUNKER AND LINOWITZ DEFEND NEW TREATY BEFORE HOUSE
GROUP." SAME PAPER FRONT-PAGES CODEL THURMOND WITH SAME AP
STORY BY ANNE ZUSY ORTIZ AS DID SISTER LA ESTRELLA: "TREATY-
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OPPOSING SENATORS TO VISIT CANAL ZONE TODAY."

3. GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED CRITICA CARRIED EFE VERSION OF THE HOUSE
HEARING STORY WITH PAGE ONE REEFER BOX: "FIRST CONSERVATIVE
BARRAGE AGAINST CANAL TREATY." CRITICA AND SISTERS MATUTINO AND
LA REPUBLIC AOF AUGUST 17 EMPHASIZE LOCAL TREATY STORIES;
CRITICA WITH PAGE ONE PIECE, "ON LABOR MATTERS: TODAY THE

TREATY TO BE MADE KNOWN." ACCORDING TO CRITICA, LOCALS 900 AND 907 WILL MEET AT 7 TONIGHT IN THE PANAMA CITY HEADQUARTERS OF THE JOURNALISTS UNION TO DISSEMINATE DETAILS LABOR SECTIONS OF DRAFT TREATY.

4. MATUTINO AND LA REPUBLICA HEADLINE TREATY BRIEFING FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES SET FOR FRIDAY IN THE LEGISLATIVE PALACE TO BE ATTENDED BY CHIEF OF STATE, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL GUARD COMMAND STAFF AND NEGOTIATORS. MATUTINO ALSO GIVES KISSINGER TREATY SUPPORT ONE COLUMN PAGE ONE, ONE COLUMN TO MERCHANT MARINE HEARING AND ONE-COLUMN CARACAS DATELINE ON EXILED PANAMANIAN CARLOS GONZALEZ DE LA LASTRA CRITICISM OF THE "TORRIJOS-CARTER TREATY." LA REPUBLICA GIVES BOTTOM THIRD PAGE ONE TO TRANSLATION OF AUGUST 17 MAIMI HERALD STORY ON EX-PRESIDENT FORD'S SUPPORT OF TREATY WITH 5-COLUMN HEAD: "THE TREATY IS VITAL FOR INTERESTS AND HONOR OF U.S." LA REPUBLICA ALSO CARRIED INTERIOR PAGE TRANSLATION OF AUGUST 12 PANAMA CANAL FACT SHEET.

5. IN ITS LEAD ENTITLED, "PREDICTIONS," MATUTINO CITES SUPPORT BY BUNKER AND LINOWITZ, FORD, KISSINGER, GOLDWATER, AND PRESIDENT CARTER AS POSITIVE SIGNS POINTING TO SENATE RATIFICATION OF TREATY. "IN THE FIRST PLACE," SAYS MATUTINO, "CALCULATIONS BASED ON THE REALITIES, EFFECTED BY TREATY SUPPORTERS WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT CIRCLES, INDICATE A FAIRLY HIGH NUMBER OF VOTES IN FAVOR OF THE TREATY, LEAVING THEREFORE A UNCLASSIFIED

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RELATIVELY SMALL MARGIN OF SENATORS WHOSE INCLINATIONS HAVE BEEN OPENLY NEGATIVE."

6. FORD, KISSINGER AND THE OTHERS ARE MOVING IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION AND MATUTINO EVEN CONSIDERS RONALD REAGAN'S REACTION A "TIE". MATUTINO CONCLUDES: "FINALLY, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, IS THE FACT THAT JAMES CARTER, PROMOTOR OF CAUSES WHICH HE BACKS WITH DECISION, HAS MORE THAN PROVEN THE POWER OF HIS CONVICTION, WHICH BROUGHT HIM FROM HIS RURAL COMMUNITY TO THE GOVERNORSHIP OF HIS STATE TO HIS DRAMATIC LEAP TO THE WHITE HOUSE. WITH PROMOTERS OF THIS STATURE, IT IS EASY TO ARRIVE AT A POSITIVE DIAGNOSIS OF APPROVAL FOR THE NEW TREATY..."

6. CAMILO O. PEREZ, IN HIS DAILY "BONA FIDE" COLUMN, PHILOSOPHIZES ON THE TREATY, CREDITING THE SUCCESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS TO THE INTEREST SHOWN BY ALL PANAMANIAN IN THE CANAL. "FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF PANAMA'S DOMESTIC RELATIONS, INDIFFERENCE HAS DISAPPEARED. AND EVERYONE, ABSOLUTELY EVERYONE, WANTS TO GIVE HIS OPINION...EACH PANAMANIAN CONSIDERS HIMSELF AN EXPERT ...THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN A STIMULANT.THE CANAL PROBLEM IS WHAT HAS ENCOURAGED THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS. THE PERSISTENCE OF THE NEGATIVE U.S. POSITION IS WHAT FPSRZIVY HAS

SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING TOGETHER OUR NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS TO THE
POINT WHERE WE DON'T SPEAK ANYMORE OF RSBERATION FROM A FOREIGN
OCCUPATION BUT RATHER LIBERATION FROM INTERNAL EXPLOITATION..."

ITEM

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